

THE PRESBYTERIAN

OF THE SOUTH
COMBINING
THE SOUTHWESTERN PRESBYTERIAN
THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN

VOL. LXXXVI.

RICHMOND, NEW ORLEANS, ATLANTA,

MAY 2, 1917

No. 16



Editorial Notes and Comment



MAY and Foreign Missions. How naturally those words go together. No Southern Presbyterian ought to be able to think of the beautiful month of May without thinking of the more beautiful work of Foreign Missions. The General Assembly has married this month to this work, and let no man put them assunder. The developing of the beauties and the promises of nature ought to fill our hearts with gratitude to God, the giver of every good gift, and prompt us to show our gratitude to God for His great goodness to us.

FOREIGN MISSIONS pays. There can be no doubt about that. Just look at some of the results of this work. A year ago there were 33,021 members in our churches in the foreign fields. Now there are 38,169, a net gain of 5,148 or fifteen and a half per cent. We have been congratulating ourselves that the home church had a growth of about four and a half per cent. There have been greater increases in other directions. The students in boarding and day schools have increased during the year from 16,012 to 24,004. Sunday-school membership has grown from 36,436 to 60,550. Fifty per cent. in one case and sixty-six per cent. in the other. Native candidates for the ministry a year ago numbered 126. Now they are 205, almost as many as the whole number of our candidates in all of our Seminaries. The gifts of the native Christians for Christian work were \$122,332. This was nearly one-fourth as much as was given for foreign mission work by our whole church. With such results as this who can doubt that foreign missions pays good dividends.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CLUB is the name of an organization in New York City, the object of which we do not know. But it has recently performed a meritorious act which ought to place it on the roll of fame. It had decided to build a home for itself at a cost of \$1,000,000 to take the place of the one it was occupying. For this purpose \$500,000 had been raised. Realizing the crying need for relief work in the war stricken countries of Europe, the club gave the whole of this fund to be used in advancing that work. We wonder how many individuals have made a similar sacrifice. How many congregations have given up or reduced the cost of a new church building in order to give the bread of life to the destitute in our own land or in heathen lands? We remember hearing a negro presenting the needs of his race to one of our strong churches which occupied a handsome new building which had just been completed, and on which there were two steeples. He said to his hearers, "If you had just saved the cost of one of your steeples, you could have built two or three churches such as we need."

CHILDREN'S DAY for Foreign Missions comes on the 27th of this month. A great amount of good has been accomplished by these services in the past, and we are sure that much good can be done by them this time. To get good results, however, will require some time for preparation. The subject for study this year is our work on the Congo in Africa. There is no more remarkable story of mission work to be found in any part of the world, than that of our missionaries in the dark continent. It is a story that every one ought to know. One of the best ways to impress the great facts of this work upon the minds and hearts of the people of the Church is to have them presented to them by the children. Sunday-school workers, if you have not already done so, write to Rev. John I. Armstrong, Nashville, Tenn., and ask him for supplies of programs and other things needed. They will cost you nothing. Tell him whether you expect the whole school to join in the exercises together, or the different departments of the school to act separately. Tell him how many will take part in either case, and he will send them at once.

SUGGESTIONS to preachers are easily made, but those who make them do not always stop to think whether the preacher can carry them out or not. A certain man in writing a suggestive letter to his preacher asked: "How many books do you read in a year?" Implying that he was not reading as many as it would be well for him to read. We have no doubt that the preacher agreed with him. But it did not seem to have occurred to the writer that it was the duty of the church, either directly or indirectly, to provide these books. What business man would expect his stenographer to buy her typewriter, or even to buy the paper and pencils to be used in doing his work. Why should not the church furnish the pastor with proper equipment for doing his work to the best advantage? Either provide a special fund for this purpose or pay a salary that will enable the preacher to do it. This writer has the audacity to say to his pastor: "Don't buy a new overcoat next winter. Buy some new books." We wonder how many men there are in the Church with souls as small as his.

PATRIOTISM will be shown by Christian people during the coming days when war seems inevitable. And for the support of the government they will be willing to make great sacrifices. This is right. It is earnestly hoped that they will not overlook the patriotism due to the King Jesus and his cause, but will be ready to make any sacrifice that may be necessary to carry on the warfare against Satan, who will be sure to appear in all his strength to attack, and, if possible to overthrow the kingdom of Christ.

AFRICA is the country to be studied by the Sunday-schools this year in connection with the Missionary Day. The work done by our Church in the Dark Continent makes one of the most remarkable chapters in the history of missions. It was begun just 27 years ago, and in a section of country where a white man was almost unknown. Among the phenomenal results of the efforts put forth there by consecrated men and women, supported by the consecrated gifts of Christians in our Church, is the great number who have accepted Christ as their Saviour. At one of these stations is the largest church in our connection, having over eight thousand members. This is one of the largest Presbyterian churches in the world, if not the largest. The largest church in the Northern Assembly is in Seattle, of which Rev. Dr. M. A. Matthews is pastor, with a little less than 6,000 members. The largest in our Church is in Houston, Texas, of which Rev. Dr. W. States Jacobs is pastor, with a little over 2,000 members. These churches are growing rapidly, but the Congo church at Luebo is growing much more rapidly. It is much easier to get into the church in this country than it is in Africa. There the applicant for membership must spend months, it may be years, in training, and he must give unmistakable evidence that he is leading a Christian life before he is received into the church.

TAXES are necessary for the support of the government, and the government is established and conducted for the benefit of all the people. Every one, therefore, should bear his proper proportion of the cost involved, whether it be in service or in money. Yet there are some people who seem to take delight in escaping the payment of their taxes. And there are some who fail to make proper returns of their property, and thus escape the payment of a part of the taxes that he ought to pay. In this way such a man gets the benefits of what he has not paid for at the expense of others. What is the difference between taking a dollar's worth of benefits from others without paying for them and taking the dollar itself? In one case the man would be called a thief. What should he be called in the other case?

STATEMENTS are often made that the reading of the Bible is prohibited in the public schools of many States. The fact is that this is true of only a very few States. It may be that due to some local regulation this is not done or it may be due to indifference or unwillingness on the part of teachers. It would be well for the Christian people of every community to look into conditions and see if any improvement is needed in the matter. The Bible ought to be read.